

## CHAPTER XVI

### THE POST'S SCHOOL FACILITIES—PUBLIC SCHOOL MAINTAINED BY STATE OF KANSAS

**U**NTIL within the last decade Fort Leavenworth's educational facilities for the children of the post were limited to the class of schools provided by the government and the maintenance of private schools at the expense of those whose children attended them. The distance between many posts and nearby communities made it inconvenient for small children to attend their public schools; except where rapid transit permitted.

Under the law of 1838 authorizing the appointment of chaplains\*, it was also provided that they serve as school teachers at posts where tuition was necessary. These schools were, however, in most instances mere makeshifts, schools in name only, and did not at all answer the educational requirements of the youth even in those early days when the three R's were supposed to be sufficient to meet the ordinary demands for an education. Later the detail of enlisted men as "school masters" was authorized. This was an improvement on the primeval method the government practiced. Where competent soldiers were found such details were usually made to assist the chaplains, or rather perform the work under their direction.

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\* Under the provisions of this law the post council of Fort Leavenworth appointed the Rev. Henry Gregory its chaplain. Upon taking up this labor in a new field, the chaplain established a school as provided for by law. This gives Fort Leavenworth the distinction of having had in its midst the first school for white children upon Kansas soil.

In recent years, however, frontier posts have become a thing of the past; while rapid transit facilities have made it possible at most military stations for army children to attend the public schools of the nearby communities which, in nearly all instances, furnish free tuition. With the improved conditions the methods so long in use in the army have been thrown in the discard except where it is not practicable to send the smaller children to a distant public school and where a kindergarten education as will meet requirements.

Fort Leavenworth is today the most favored of all military stations in the United States in the way of school facilities for her youth. Not only does the post enjoy the free use of the city's public schools, but additional facilities are furnished in a public school within the post, supplied at the expense of the State of Kansas.

Before detailing the causes that led up to, and the methods pursued which finally secured such splendid school privileges for the post, it is believed to be quite appropriate to reproduce at this point an extract from a paper on "Education in Kansas" by E. T. Fairchild, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It will indicate why the state responded so promptly to requests for assistance along educational lines at this post and at the same time lay the foundation for what is to follow:

"Kansas is the second state in the Union in point of literacy. The advance made by the public schools since its organization as a state is fully abreast of the splendid progress made in all other directions. A brief comparison of the statistics then and now will clearly establish this fact.

"Fifty years ago the value of all public school property was \$10,000; today it is \$20,800,000.00. Dur-

ing this same time the school population has grown from less than 5,000 to 516,000. The amount paid out for school purposes in 1863 was \$54,000, while in 1910 it was \$9,000,000.00.

“Fifty years ago the average length of the school term in weeks was 12.8, while now it is 30. That is to say 27.2 weeks have been added. The number of teachers employed has increased from 200 to 13,467. For salaries of teachers the amount has grown from \$14,000 to \$5,700,000.00. The salaries of teachers has increased from an average of \$18 to \$61 a month.

“But these are in large part but evidences of the material growth of our schools. And this material betterment is most gratifying. It is a long cry from the little sod school house of 1861 to the splendid school buildings of today. The high school buildings, unheard of in the early days of our state, are marvels of beauty and excellence. Ranging in cost from \$10,000 to \$200,000, they stand as splendid examples of twentieth century care and consideration for the well being of our youth. The country schoolhouse, too, is feeling the effect of modern appreciation of the esthetic and the value of a proper environment for the child. Proper lighting, heating and ventilation are now regarded as essential qualities.

“But, better than all of these is the demand for more thoroughly and more widely trained teachers. However well the teachers of the early sixties met the need of the times, the teacher of today must be vastly better trained. Our views of what the schools must do for the child have radically changed. To prepare our boys and girls for the active duties of a new and wonderful age requires much more than a passing knowledge of the three R's. The twentieth

century that promises to be the most complex, the most strenuous and the most democratic of all ages calls for a broader and a more comprehensive training than sufficed for our fathers."

When in 1899 the war department decided upon the enlargement of Fort Leavenworth, a considerable increase of its even then large school population, was anticipated. The need for improved facilities for the education of the children of soldiers, officers and civilian employes was so apparent that immediate steps were taken to secure them. The effort resulted in the obtainment of a law from the Kansas legislature organizing the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation into a separate school district and providing it with the necessary machinery for operation under its general school laws.

When the state ceded back to the federal government its jurisdiction over the territory embraced within the reservation it retained the right to tax the corporate interests within its limits. Up to the time of this enactment the reservation had been divided by the superintendent of Public Instruction for Leavenworth county for school taxing purposes by adding the divisions to adjoining districts on the north and west, thus giving these districts the opportunity to tax these properties and reducing thereby their own expenses.

The value of the taxable property within the Fort Leavenworth district, according to the assessment for 1911 is \$506,840.00, tenth in valuation in the county. With a levy of forty-five cents on every one hundred dollars of taxable property, that being the maximum allowed by the general school laws of the state, the district last year realized \$2,265.75. To this add the apportionment made from the state school fund, which the special law directs, and

which last year was \$205.64, the Fort Leavenworth school district enjoys a revenue per annum of \$2,371.39.

The idea of securing from the legislature a special enactment providing for the organization of the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation as a separate district was born of the failure to secure from the Leavenworth Board of Education authority to admit Fort children to its schools, without the payment of a tuition fee. The author, who had presented a petition to the board praying for such action, knew its refusal did not represent the sentiment of the community. This refusal determined him to even greater effort and victory finally came all along the line. Its fruits are now enjoyed by the residents of the post.

This failure, however, was only temporary. The author, who had undertaken to obtain improved school facilities at the post, hit upon the idea embraced within the law under which its public school is now conducted. He presented his views to Mr. R. C. Middleton, an attorney, who agreed with him upon the propriety of such a law. A bill was drawn and forwarded to State Senator Louis H. Wulfekuhler of Leavenworth County within a few days of the close of the session of 1901, urgently requesting to secure its passage. The prompt action of the legislature was proof that it recognized the justice of the request, and to Senator Wulfekuhler is due great credit for his effort,

The text of the law is as follows:

An act creating a school district out of the Fort Leavenworth military reservation.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas.*

SECTION 1. That the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation, by and with the consent of the War Department of the United States, be and the same is hereby set apart, established and created a school district, to be designated and known as the "Fort Leavenworth school district."

SECTION 2. That the board of county commissioners of the county of Leavenworth, Kansas, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to establish maintain and conduct a common school upon the said Fort Leavenworth military reservation, the same as other district schools under the general school laws of the state; provided that the duties and powers of officers of school districts under the general school laws shall, for the purpose of this act, devolve upon and be exercised by the said board of county commissioners, which said board is hereby empowered and authorized to levy a tax each year upon the franchises and property of railroad companies, bridge companies and other corporations on said reservation, as may be deemed necessary, to establish, maintain and conduct said district school, not to exceed in any one year the maximum rate authorized by law to be levied by the trustees of other school districts within said county and state, and

*Provided further,* That no part of the taxes so levied or collected shall at any time be used in the erection of a school building or buildings upon the said military reservation, and such moneys shall only be used and expended in establishing, maintaining and conducting a common school or schools upon such reservation, in such building or buildings thereon as may be provided by the War Department or the Department of Justice, the use of which may be permitted or authorized by the commanding officer in charge at Fort Leavenworth or by the warden at the Federal Prison at said Fort Leavenworth.

SECTION 3. That for the purpose of listing, assessing and valuing the franchises and property of railroad companies, bridge companies and other corporations on said reservation, and in order that the taxes for school purposes may be levied and collected thereon, it is hereby made the duty of revenue officers of the state or the county of Leavenworth, as the case may be, according to the class or character of the franchise or property to be taxed for the purpose of this act, to do and perform whatever acts or things are or may be necessary to be done or performed, to all intents and purposes the same as such officer or officers are or may be required by law to do or perform under the general school laws of the state, and to the same extent as if such franchises and properties were not situated upon the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation; *Provided*, That the franchises and property of the railroad companies, bridge companies and other corporations so taxed under the provisions of this act shall not be liable for school taxes in any other school district; and, *Provided further*, That the county treasurer of the county of Leavenworth shall be *ex officio* treasurer of the said Fort Leavenworth district school.

SECTION 4. A school census shall be taken, as required by law, of all children of school age situated, living or residing upon said military reservation, and for the purpose of this act such school census shall be taken by the superintendent of schools in and for the said county of Leavenworth, a copy of which shall be kept on file in his office, and he shall file a copy thereof with the state superintendent of public instruction, as required by law, under the general school laws; and any and all moneys apportioned by the state to the county of Leavenworth or the district

schools therein shall be so apportioned that said Fort Leavenworth district school shall have and receive its just proportion thereof, which amount shall be paid into the hands of the country treasurer of Leavenworth county for the use and benefit of said school district.

SECTION 5. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the official state paper.

*Published in official state paper March 29, 1901.*

The law reached the governor too late before the closing hours of legislative session to permit its examination and became effective, without his signature, after publication in the official state paper.

The following letter from Senator Wulfekuhler deserves place here:

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS,

*July 29, 1910.*

HENRY SHINDLER,

*Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.*

MY DEAR SIR:—Replying to your communication of the 28th relative to an Act of the Legislature of the State of Kansas entitled “An Act to establish and maintain a Public School on the Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation in the State of Kansas” being Senate Bill No. 512, passed in the regular session of the Legislature in 1901, will say that this bill was sent to me by yourself stating that being nearly at the end of the session you had Mr. Middleton, then a resident of this city, prepare the bill, and the day that I received the bill, I introduced the same in the Kansas State Senate and I believe gave a copy to Hon. John M. Hund then representing the Sixth Le-



gislative District\* of this county to introduce in the House just as received. The Senate bill was passed first and messaged to the House as fast as the same could be done the same then passed by the House and became a law. The bill as sent me by you was not changed in any word, figure or syllable but passed and became a law just as sent to me by yourself.

Yours Very Truly,

L. H. WULFEKUHLE

The post authorities did not avail themselves of this grant until 1906, a building for school purposes not being available. In the year named a building for many years occupied by the post commander, was set aside for the purpose and the school established. The attention of the military authorities was called to the post's inadequate school facilities by Colonel H. O. Perley, Surgeon, Medical Corps, in charge of the school as local manager, representing the parents of pupils. The response was prompt and to the effect that plans and estimates be prepared and forwarded for approval. This has been done and a site selected. The latter is on the east side of the garrison, fronting Merritt Place, an excellent location, secluded, yet convenient, it being in the very center of the post's school population. The plans were drawn along modern lines for a school building and are very complete in every detail. It's cost is to be \$20,000.

Subsequent to the enactment of the law for a public school at the post, an election was held in the city of Leavenworth for members for the board of education. The friends for a free school for the Fort Leavenworth children took an active part in the

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\* The Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation lies within this district.

contest, resulting in the overwhelming defeat of every candidate unfavorable to such demand. Among the first acts of the new board was the adoption of the resolution, which follows, introduced by Mr. W. N. Todd, to-wit:

That Regulation No. 7 be amended by adding the following: *Provided*, That no tuition shall be charged residents of Fort Leavenworth and Soldiers' Home, in the graded schools.

It is the sense of the board that no tuition be collected from High school pupils, and that pupils of the Fort and Soldiers' Home be considered as resident pupils.

Adopted September 15, 1902.

Notwithstanding that the post has its own public school, a number of the children attend the public schools of the city and all qualified attend its High school.

The local press was unanimous in the support of the board's action as the following indicates:

### A SPLENDID MOVE

(Western Life)

In opening the doors of our public schools to the children of Fort Leavenworth and the Soldiers' Home on the same footing with the actual resident children of the city the board of education has done a commendable thing. It is our duty to cultivate the most friendly relations with the people of the Fort and Home and every action of this character will be viewed in the spirit in which it is taken.

The vote on the proposition was almost unanimous and the people will approve its action.

To Mr. Henry Shindler much of the credit is due for finally securing favorable results. He has been endeavoring to obtain this privilege for the past two

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years. It has required a complete change in the personnel of the board. Not another man in this community is so well qualified to discuss every phase of Fort Leavenworth affairs as Mr. Shindler and the presentation of the facts to the present board made up of broad minded men, has been done in a manner that carried conviction with it.



## CHAPTER XVII

### A PAROCHIAL SCHOOL AT THE POST CONDUCTED FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS

**T**HE large Catholic population of the post forced the church authorities to provide suitable school facilities for the youth of that faith. The Jesuit fathers were, at this time, 1868, in charge, and these asked the services of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Mount St. Mary's Academy, to assist. The latter were encouraged to take up this work by Mrs. Schofield, the wife of Major General J. M. Schofield,\* then an official resident of the post. Rooms for this purpose were obtained on the first floor of a building known as "Bedlam,"\* on the west side of the gar-

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\*In his "Forty-six Years in the Army" General Schofield says: "The department headquarters were removed to St. Louis during the winter of 1869-70 to make room at Fort Leavenworth for the cavalry who had been on the plains during the summer \* \* \* We returned to Fort Leavenworth in the following spring, and expected to make that our permanent home. Some necessary improvements had been made in the quarters during the winter, and none could have desired a more comfortable residence, more congenial companionship, or more agreeable occupation than that of guarding and protecting the infant settlements of industrious but unarmed and confiding people rapidly spreading far out upon the plains."

"It was a large two story frame, with front and back porches and stone basement. It was the quarters of unmarried officers, with an officers' mess attached. (A lieutenant in those days would be content with one room, and all of his furniture would not be worth twenty-five dollars.) 'Twas here they fought the battles o'er, from West Point and the girls they left behind them, through the swamps of Florida, the wilds of Texas, over the great plains, the mountains, on

rison. There the school was conducted for some years and then removed to St. Ignatius chapel. Rev. Father O'Reilley caused a part of the main church auditorium to be partitioned off for this purpose and it was so used for a number of years, when the sisters removed the school to a building constructed for the purpose. The correspondence which follows explains how the school building came to be erected:

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS,  
*August 31, 1877.*

HON. G. M. McCRARY,  
*Secretary of War,*  
*Washington, D. C.*

YOUR HONOR:—I, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Leavenworth, Kan., beg leave most respectfully to submit the following to your kind consideration: My predecessor, Bishop J. B. Miede, addressed to the Secretary of War a petition, endorsed by the commanding general of the Department of the Missouri, setting forth the great need of church facilities for the Catholic officers, soldiers and civilians in the employ of the United States government at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and praying that a piece of ground be set apart for the creation of suitable church buildings for said members of the church at the aforementioned Fort. An order was then issued by the War Department dated January 10, 1871, in virtue of which a piece of ground 200 feet square, was set apart and permission granted for the erection of a Roman Catholic church at the expense of its members. A good brick building was put up and suitably furnished at a cost of

the Pacific Slope and the fields of Mexico. 'Twas here they met after tedious campaigns, recounted their triumphs, disappointments and hardships; through heat, cold, hunger and disease—and now the feast, if not always of reason, at least the flow of soul—and other things.”—P. G. Lowe, in *“Five Years a Dragoon.”*

\$10,000. Before the church was built the military authorities had assigned an old frame building for church as well as for school purpose, and for the latter purpose it served until a year ago when the attending clergyman was notified to vacate the building, as it would be needed for post purposes. The school was conducted by Sisters of Charity. For the last year the school was kept up at the expense of the members of the church at the Fort at the church edifice. However, as this building is entirely unsuitable for school purposes, I beg leave most respectfully to petition your honor in behalf of the Catholic officers, soldiers and civilians at the Fort, to grant permission, that the members of the Roman Catholic congregation of said post may erect a proper and suitable school building on the church premises and will ever pray to be, honorable sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

LOUIS M. FINK, O. S. B.,

*Roman Catholic Bishop of Leavenworth.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, D. C., Oct. 27, 1877.*

TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL,

*Department of Missouri,*

*Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.*

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary of War has approved the request of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Leavenworth, returned by your endorsement of the 10th inst., for permission to erect a building for school purposes, on the lot of land heretofore set apart for the occupancy of the Catholic church on the Fort Leavenworth military reservation with the distinct understanding that the

building is to be removed whenever the land is required by the United States.

I am sir, Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Adjutant General.*

The terms in the permit were accepted. Plans were drawn by Major Dallas\* then stationed at the post and a devoted member of the church. The building was placed west of "Union Hall" and is at present the northeast corner of Thomas and Kearney avenues. There the building remained until 1889 when it was removed to the site of the new church and later torn down.

Of the Sisters who taught here Sister Mary Francis was perhaps the best known. She is said to have been a remarkable little woman and well remembered for the way in which she could lay the lash to the shoulders of the loafers in her school, many of whom were taller than herself.

In the "History of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth" considerable space is devoted to their school work at the post and from this the following extracts about good sister Mary Francis are reproduced:

"Rev. Father Panken, S. J., was pastor, and when Mother Xavier told him that she proposed to send Sister Mary Francis McMahon to the Fort as one of the two teachers required, he hesitated—then unhesitatingly objected, saying that Sister Mary Francis was too old and too—ugly.

"Sister Mary Francis was not so exceedingly old, she was forty at the time, but looked years and

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\*Major Alexander James Dallas, 23d Infantry. He was stationed at this post from 1877 until 1879. He came of a distinguished family, a member of which was Vice-President under President Polk. Major Dallas died July 19, 1895.



years older; she died May 26, 1894, at the age of sixty-two, but she was not by any means a beauty; she was homely in feature, but her manners were refined, her movements graceful, her whole bearing ladylike and commanding respect. She proved a very successful teacher at the Fort, where she remained for twelve years continuously."

And this concerning the school and the work required of the Sisters:

"At that time there was no Catholic school house at the Fort, so a government building was used for that purpose. The building thus loaned to the Sisters for school was taken three or four times during the year for different purposes. This was annoying to both teachers and pupils, so finally the Government allowed a Catholic Church to be built at the Fort, and here the Sisters taught for two years. The commanding officers were always kind and respectful to the Sisters; even the Protestant ministers were most polite and attentive. For a while the Sisters taught in the Episcopal Church, whilst their own was in course of completion. The Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Woart, was very kind to the Sisters, frequently inviting them to his house for luncheon, and when the Sisters would decline, he would express his concern at their having to partake of a cold collation. The kind reverend gentlemen would undoubtedly have raised his hands in holy astonishment if he had been granted an interior view of a small basket that accompanied the Sisters to and fro on their daily trips, for it contained some slices of dry bread and a bottle of coffee—usually this, seldom more,

'Quoth the raven, *seldom more.*'

"After they had been some time teaching in their own church, they had the honor of two or three visits from Mrs. W. T. Sherman, who expressed herself

highly gratified at such a flourishing Catholic school at a post, the only post in the Union that had a Catholic church. On the occasion of her last visit she gave one hundred and fifty suitable books to be distributed as premiums to the children of the school. Her great delight was to come after Mass and spend an hour with the Sisters. Mrs. Sherman was, at this time, a guest of General Miles, who was a relative of hers. She had with her her youngest son, who was thirteen years of age and a lover of the saddle.

"In the morning an ambulance was sent for the Sisters, and the same conveyance brought them home after school hours. One bright, delightful spring morning, as the Sisters were on their way to the Fort, they passed this young lad and his cousins riding rapidly towards the city. The boy was not an expert rider; he had a mettlesome horse, and as he was going very fast, he lost his balance and fell, and in falling his foot caught in the stirrup, and thus he was dragged for some distance, when one of the prisoners, an Irishman, who was working on the road, came to his assistance at the risk of his life—for a guard stood with loaded gun, ready to shoot any man that left his post.

"When this news reached Mrs. Sherman, and her son had been restored to her arms, badly bruised, but not seriously injured, she sent for the brave prisoner, told him to ask what he would, and it should be granted him. She had him pardoned that day, supplied him liberally with clothing, presented him with a handsome sum of money, and obtained for him honorable employment."

The pupils of the parochial school came largely from a section of the post known as "Happy Hollow," on the site now occupied by the engineer and artillery stables. The residents of "Happy Hollow"

were employes of the quartermaster's and subsistence departments. Early in the eighties the authorities decided on the removal of all buildings on the site. It was there where lived the Flannigans, the Cronins, the Buckleys, the Logans, the O'Connors, the McGuires, the Kinerneys and many others of similar name and nativity. The removal of this large Catholic population from the reservation to the city wiped out of existence the post's recruiting station for the parochial school and the facilities for easily reaching the parochial schools of the city, made it impossible to maintain the local school and was finally closed down in 1904.



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## Division Twelve

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### The Post's Cemeteries

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## CHAPTER XVIII

### FORT LEAVENWORTH'S NEW AND OLD CEMETERIES FURNISH INTERESTING HISTORY

**W**ITH a view of preserving for the future a history of the post's burialground, past and present, its publication within these pages was believed to be appropriate and it is hoped will prove as interesting as that which precedes it.

Originally there were two cemeteries at Fort Leavenworth. The first came with the establishment of the post in 1827 and was known as the "soldiers' burying ground". It was located within what are now the limits of the grounds attached to the residence of the commandant of the Army Service Schools. Here were buried the soldiers, and many civilians who, in the post's early history, died in its vicinity; some having been brought from the plains along the Santa Fe trail and even as far south as Santa Fé, New Mexico. This two cemetery was discontinued in 1860. Late in the fifties it was decided to establish an ordnance arsenal at Fort Leavenworth. The grounds occupied as a cemetery and those adjoining were considered as best adapted for an arsenal site. The selection was approved. Orders reached the post late in the year 1860 to abandon the cemetery, locate a new site and disinter all remains for transfer to the new location.

The second cemetery, known as the "officers' burying ground", was established subsequently. It has not been possible to ascertain the exact date. The site selected was upon the brow of the hill, fronting the Missouri River and directly east of the College building, known in early days as "rattle-

snake hill", from the fact that the ground was infested with rattlesnakes.\* Here were buried many of the officers who died at this and neighboring military posts and also many civilians.

Mr. E. T. Carr,† for many years superintendent of construction quite familiar with all the surroundings of the post at that time was in charge of the disinterment of the remains from both cemeteries and their transfer to the newly selected site, in a letter written by him some years ago giving his recollection of this subject says:

"Soon after the establishment of the arsenal came the order to remove the bodies from the old 'soldiers burying ground' to the present site—in order to make room for quarters for the commanding officer of the arsenal. These are the quarters now occupied by the Army Service School's commandant.

"In the early spring of 1861, by direction of Captain J. L. Reno, ordnance officer, then in charge of the arsenal, I made a contract with R. V. Flora, of Leavenworth, to remove the bodies. The work was performed by him under my supervision and all

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\* In his "Annals of Platte County, Missouri", Mr. W. M. Paxton, who at this writing is past the age of ninety, speaks of this site as having been infested with rattlesnakes, but never knew of anyone having been fatally poisoned by them.

§ E. T. Carr, a native of Syracuse, N. Y., came to Fort Leavenworth in 1855. Under Major E. S. Sibley, quartermaster of the post, he had charge of the construction of many buildings. Later he was employed as superintendent of construction by the ordnance department and all buildings which comprised the old arsenal, were constructed under his direction. In this position he continued until 1871. In the mean time he planned many public buildings for the county and state including the capitol at Topeka. He occupied the responsible position of Grand Recorder for the Masonic Grand Lodge of the state, and chairman of the committee on "Foreign Correspondence" for many years.



bodies taken up where the appearance of a grave could be found. These were placed in rows, in trenches along the upper side of the new cemetery nearest the main road (northwest), all head stones or other means of identification being carefully preserved and placed over each body.

"How many were left in the old cemetery will probably never be known.\*

"The bodies from the 'officers burying ground' were not removed until two or three years later and I had charge of their removal also. This was a small enclosure and contained a number of monuments, headstones, etc. But there were many graves with nothing to mark them, before removing any of these bodies I made a measured diagram of the enclosure, locating all visible graves, and giving names of all I could, and where the names were not known the distance and direction from other graves, objects, such as trees, etc. Some graves had probably become entirely obscured. This diagram I left with the Depot Quartermaster for future reference."

In 1867, owing to the many burials of soldiers who served in the army during the civil war and were killed, or died in this section who were buried in this cemetery, it was declared a National Cemetery under the law passed at that time and a superintendent placed in charge. Notwithstanding that only those who died in the army or navy, or honorably discharged, were entitled to burial in such cemetery, the post continued to bury there its dead regardless of the restrictions of the National Cemetery law.

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\* Since the abandonment of this cemetery the grounds have been frequently graded and much excavation has been done for the erection of buildings which lead to the uncovering of many bones of the soldier dead. These were always carefully collected and given proper burial in the new cemetery among the "unknown dead".

In 1883 the Quartermaster General of the army (Ingalls) called attention to this law with the result that the post was compelled to look elsewhere for a burial ground. This was regarded as a hardship and the department, later authorized an extension of the grounds toward the south. In the meantime, Colonel Otis, then in command of the post, set off a small plot adjoining the northeast corner of the cemetery wall and surrounded it with a barbed wire fence. A few burials were made there of children and adults. The new addition in the main cemetery was called the "post plot" and placed directly under the control of the post commander. The abandonment of many of the frontier posts brought all the dead from such post cemeteries to the local National Cemetery, requiring a second extension.

Up to March 1, 1912, there have been 3,936 burials in this cemetery. Of this number 2,353 are among the known and 1,583 among the unknown dead. Among the known dead seven Confederate soldiers are included. The government has placed a regulation head stone at the grave of each of these soldiers.

Since the establishment of the National Cemetery there have been five superintendents, as follows:

Hugh M. Fogg,  
Noble Warwick,  
William Dillon,  
Max Ritter,  
A. V. Menuez, (now in charge).

The first lodge for the cemetery superintendent with the stone wall surrounding the grounds was constructed in 1873-74, the former costing \$2,551.60, the latter \$3,067.99.

In 1886-87 the grounds were extended towards the south at a cost of \$2,403.50. The rostrum on the

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grounds adjoining the cemetery on the north was erected in 1882-83 at a cost of \$1,946.75.

Prior to the erection of the stone wall about the cemetery grounds a picket fence served the purpose. Several years ago the first lodge was destroyed by fire and a modern building placed upon the site.



## CHAPTER XIX

### DISTINGUISHED DEAD LIE AT REST IN FORT LEAVENWORTH CEMETERY

**A**MONG the many distinguished dead, at rest in the cemetery at the post, are the names of officers who have rendered valuable service to their country upon the Plains in the earliest day of its occupancy of this section. Among these is General Henry Leavenworth, in whose honor the post was named.

General Leavenworth died July 21, 1834, while in command of an important expedition against hostile Pawnees. His remains, after a temporary interment near the place of demise, were removed to Delhi, New York, where they arrived the following year. In 1901 a movement was undertaken in Leavenworth to have the remains brought to this post for final interment.

The Leavenworth Chronicle-Tribune of December 1, 1901, furnishes the following account of that effort:

"The transfer of the body of the late General Henry Leavenworth from its resting place in the cemetery at Delhi, N. Y., to the National cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., is a proposition Henry Shindler has undertaken and its success is therefore virtually assured.

"With this object in view he obtained permission of the only living descendants—three grandchildren—and their authority is now on file in the Department of War at Washington.

"The idea of transferring the body to the Fort Leavenworth National cemetery grew out of a news-

paper paragraph which appeared some four years ago to the effect that the grave at Delhi, N. Y., which contained General Leavenworth's body was almost forgotten and no relatives lived near there to care for it. It struck Mr. Shindler that the transfer of the body to Fort Leavenworth would not only be appropriate, because General Leavenworth selected the site where Fort Leavenworth now stands, but the grave would be kept green as long as the republic stands.

"Mr. Shindler promptly set to work to ascertain the names and whereabouts of living descendants to secure their authority for the removal. After a long and persistent effort their location was established, and the proposition, when placed before them, not only received their unanimous approval, but authority for its immediate accomplishment.

"Armed with this permit, Mr. Shindler enlisted Leavenworth's Commercial Club in the undertaking over a year ago and upon his suggestion Senator Baker was requested to present the matter to the Secretary of War with a view to having the disinterment, shipment to, and reinterment at Fort Leavenworth ordered. The senator endeavored to induce Secretary Root to comply with the Club's request, but without avail. Last summer when the Secretary visited Fort Leavenworth, Mr. Shindler, in the presence of a CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE reporter, again broached the subject to him, but the Secretary could not see his way clear. He said that he would like to oblige the citizens of Leavenworth, but that it was out of the question for the reason that there was no appropriation available for removing the body from the New York cemetery to this place.

"'The Department,' he said, 'will gladly give the permit for the interment of the body in the

National cemetery here, but this is as far as it can go.'

"When the Department declined to grant Senator Baker's request for the transfer of the body, the session of Congress was then too near its close to permit the initiation of proceedings looking to a special appropriation, and nothing, beyond broaching the subject to the Secretary of War, has since then been done.

"Mr. Shindler has now determined to bring the matter to a successful issue, and he has gone to work with the vim and spirit so characteristic of him in anything he undertakes.

"That the plan proposed will meet with unanimous public approval need not be discussed here. That is a certainty. It will at once commend itself, not only to every man, woman, and child in Leavenworth County, but every officer and soldier in the Army will feel that the people of this community will acquit themselves nobly by undertaking to carry out such a proposition and thus pay proper tribute and respect to one whom the entire West owe a lasting debt for his valiant services.

"It is Mr. Shindler's further idea that after the body is brought here and laid away for its final and eternal rest, a public subscription be started throughout the county and city through which to obtain sufficient means for the erection of a monument worthy of the dead soldier. He believes in having the body brought here as soon as practicable, so that funds may be raised in season and the monument erected in time to permit the unveiling on next Memorial Day, May 30, 1902.

" 'It is not any too soon to begin now,' said Mr. Shindler today. 'Let us make the ceremony of unveiling of a character more imposing, if possible,

than were witnessed during the unveiling of the Grant statue at Fort Leavenworth in 1889. Let these ceremonies be truly worthy of General Leavenworth and the United States Army at the same time. Let us invite a distinguished soldier, General Nelson A. Miles, if possible, to come here and deliver the oration upon the occasion. Let us invite the only living descendants of General Leavenworth, three in number, to be the guests of the city for the occasion. It would bring to Leavenworth an army of people, the like of which was never witnessed in this city. The day will be a national holiday. Everybody will have an opportunity to attend, and there is not a man, woman or child in Kansas, within easy reach of this place, who would not willingly come to Leavenworth on that day and assist in its proper observance. Let us have a parade at the fort of young and old soldiers that will be the largest of its kind ever seen in Kansas. We have both here and we can get many to join from other points.'

"The above is a general outline of Mr. Shindler's proposition."

### A GREAT SUCCESS

(From Western Life)

Memorial Day of 1902 will long be remembered by those who witnessed the exercises in connection with the re-interment of the late General Henry Leavenworth. It was the grandest day in the history of the city. More than ten thousand strangers entered her gates and more than twice that number beheld the most imposing military spectacle ever seen in the west. The presence of distinguished military men including such soldiers as General John C. Bates; of civic officials including such as Governor Dockery, of Missouri, with a brilliant military staff, and of the church including such as Bishop Mills-



paugh, of the Kansas Episcopal diocese, who came to pay tribute to the soldier dead, added to the greatness of the day. Besides Mrs. Dunn, of Chicago, a granddaughter, and Miss Ingersoll, of Tacoma, Washington, a great granddaughter, there were many other relatives present.

The splendid display of the military was, of course, a chief attraction in the parade. Much of its success was due to the royal assistance rendered by the commanding officer of the post and his subordinates. Every one seemed to vie with each other to make the day one worthy of remembrance, and they succeeded. There have been many big demonstrations in Leavenworth, but none of them ever came up to last Friday's parade. There was not a hitch anywhere. There wasn't even cause for criticism. Everything was arranged with such nicety, so thoroughly planned, that only praise was bestowed upon those responsible for the results.

The person to whom this credit is largely due is Mr. Henry Shindler. To him alone belongs the credit for securing the transfer of the remains of General Leavenworth and to his tact and diplomacy can the fruits be ascribed. Referring to Mr. Shindler's efforts the Delhi Republican in a recent issue said that: "Mr. Shindler's tact and courtesy in effecting the transfer of the remains without the least friction from the conflicting interests, is to be highly commended."

From the moment he announced last winter that the transfer would be effected and re-interment made in the National Cemetery with imposing ceremonies, Mr. Shindler never wavered. He was confident of success. It was this confidence that gave Him courage, and with an executive ability so thoroughly disclosed in the management of the entire affair, gave

Leavenworth a splendid example of what can be accomplished when the elements required to win are present and put to good use.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. W. H. Bond, gave Mr. Shindler the widest latitude and felt content that the arrangements would be well looked after.

WESTERN LIFE is pleased to give Mr. Shindler the fullest credit. He is being congratulated on every hand and feels grateful to his friends for the many kind expressions uttered.

Relatives of General Leavenworth have sent him the following card of thanks:

The members of the Leavenworth family, guests of the city of Leavenworth, not only desire to express their thanks for the royal entertainment extended them, but wish to express their appreciation of the efforts of Mr. Shindler, Secretary of the Citizens' Committee, and all others who assisted him, for the honors shown to the name and fame and memory of our illustrious relative.

MRS. C. J. KERSHAW,  
MRS. A. M. INGERSOLL,  
MRS. WILLIAM DUNN,  
*Granddaughters.*

Miss A. C. Leavenworth.  
Mrs. Mary Leavenworth-Smythe.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Leavenworth-Farnsworth.  
Hiram Leavenworth Ferris.  
Anna Martin.  
Francis Coon.